

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01353 271357Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /043 W
-----280641Z 081223 /12

R 270911Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6116
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1353

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES (CLARKE, GEORGE W.)
SUBJECT: DEATH OF GEORGE W. CLARKE

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1250

RAND DAILY MAIL MAY 27 CARRIED FOLLOWING ARTICLE RE DEATH
AND FUNERAL OF GEORGE WILLIAM CLARKE. QUOTE THE BODY OF GEORGE
WILLIAM CLARKE, A FORMER US MARINE WHO QUOTE LOST FAITH IN THE
US UNQUOTE AND DIED FIGHTING BLACK NATIONALIST GUERILLAS IN
RHODESIA, WAS CREMATED AFTER A MILITARY FUNERAL YESTERDAY.
MR. CLARKE, 28 AND SINGLE, WAS KILLED IN A CLASH ON MAY 15
WHILE FIGHTING WITH THE 1ST BATTALION, RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY
(RLI). FRIENDS OF MR. CLARKE SERVING IN THE SAME UNIT SAID HE
WAS BORN IN THE US AND TAKEN TO CANADA AT THE AGE OF FOUR. THE
MILITARY COMMAND GAVE HIS HOMETOWN AS LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA,
WHERE HIS FAMILY ONCE LIVED. A FUNERAL SERVICE CONDUCTED BY A
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN WAS HELD AT THE OCTAGONAL CHAPEL AT THE
RLI BARRACKS. HE HAD LOST FAITH IN THE US, SAID AN IRISHMEN
SERVING WITH THE RLI. QUOTE HE FELT THAT IN RHODESIA THE
GOVERNMENT IS BACKING THE ARMY, NOT LIKE IN VIETNAM WHERE THE
ARMY WAS SOLD OUT BY POLITICIANS UNQUOTE HE ADDED. THE IRISHMAN
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SAID MR. CLARKE LIVED IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR SOME TIME BEFORE
HE GOT TIRED OF CIVILIAN LIFE AND SIGNED UP WITH THE
RHODESIANS IN JANUARY. HE WAS THE SECOND AMERICAN KILLED IN THE
RHODESIAN GUERILLA WAR. THE FIRST WAS CORPORAL JOHN COEY, A
PARAMEDIC KILLED LAST YEAR. THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SAYS THEY
ARE NOT MERCENARIES SINCE THEY ARE PAID THE SAME AS RHODESIANS
AND ARE SUBJECT TO RHODESIAN MILITARY DISCIPLINE. UNQUOTE.

KIRBY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: CDES, (CLARKE, GEORGE W)
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